



Montana Public Service Commission
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PSC TO HOST LIFELINE/LINK-UP MEETING IN HELENA ON SEPTEMBER 15

The state Public Service Commission will host a meeting in Helena Wednesday, September 15 to discuss recent changes made by the Federal Communications Commission to the low-income telephone assistance programs called Lifeline and Linkup.

The day-long meeting will be held at the PSC's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue, beginning at 9 a.m.

The Lifeline program is a telephone discount program that provides eligible telephone subscribers certain discounts on the basic monthly telephone service charge. The Linkup program provides eligible consumers a discount on the telephone hook-up fee. Eligible subscribers living on or near tribal lands may qualify for additional discounts. In Montana, the programs are combined under the name of Montana Telephone Assistance Program and are administered by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Under Montana law, eligibility for the programs is restricted to Medicaid recipients.

Pam Gallant of the Universal Service Administrative Company, which is the entity designated by the FCC to administer the federal support for Lifeline and Linkup, will explain the FCC's suggestions and requirements for Lifeline and Linkup. Meeting participants, including representatives of telephone companies and social service agencies and organizations, will have the opportunity to learn more about low-income telephone assistance programs and discuss possible ideas to improve them.

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